

Invest in futures

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing

For we are co-workers in God's service;
you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

www.onegreathourofsharing.org

Thank you for preparing to promote the One Great Hour of Sharing offering

Greetings in the Name of Jesus,

Thank you for preparing to promote the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

It is our pleasure to share the enclosed resources with you. You can use them to promote the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. An electronic version is available to make it easier for you to use these resources and adapt them as you see fit. All images and wording are yours to adapt or use. We pray the role we play in the wider world through the offering, as the United Church of Christ, will inspire your generosity.

In 2020, the suggested offering date is March 22. The theme is *Invest in Futures*. The scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:5–9. It tells us we are servants in the service of God, one planting, one watering, and God being the one who grows and nurtures it all.

When we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we provide valuable support. Our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide.

Among the support we give, water, sanitation and adequate nutrition top the list of resources needed. Assets such as irrigation systems, wells, latrines and wash houses change peoples' lives in amazing ways. Clean water and adequate facilities improve health and gives dignity to people at the same time.

Clean water is also provided to grow better gardens. A combination of water, seeds, tools, and training on modern farming techniques produce a great harvest—leaving more money for families to live on. Lives are changed when health improves. Lives are changed when communities thrive.

Storms, such as the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the small island of Sulawesi, Indonesia (September 2018) destroy everything in their paths! In Sulawesi, gardens, houses, water systems, latrines and livelihoods. . . all were gone. Many people could not imagine how they could go on. But with support of OGHS, 13,000 people now receive clean water.

What may seem like a small investment to us, yields amazing results worldwide. With water, sanitation and adequate food, children are more likely to attend school, and women, no longer searching for water, are able to earn money to contribute to their families' well-being and overall health.

Stand with UCC congregations by lending a hand through support to the OGHS offering! Your financial assistance will directly help people and communities affected by disaster, violence and poverty. Your financial assistance will be an investment into the lives of people and communities who need it most.

Together, we are co-workers in God's service, planting and watering seeds for God to nurture.

Thank you on behalf of the individuals and communities who will benefit directly from your support.

To make the One Great Hour of Sharing offering part of your congregation's outreach this year, here are four simple steps that may be helpful to follow:

- 1 Set a date for the offering and announce it to the church along with a goal.
- 2 Make a big deal about the offering—hanging the poster in a prominent place.
- 3 During worship, share stories and videos you can download for free. Help your members learn more about what the offering does, and get excited.
- 4 Thank everyone for participating in the offering, and announce how much was received. If you set a goal, let people know if you reached it, or have a little ways to go.

Additional resources are available on the website ucc.org/oghs_resources.

Don't Just Give. . . Invest!

Engage in mission through One Great Hour of Sharing

There are many ways to be involved in addition to your financial support. Share. Advocate. Connect. Volunteer. Give.

Share One Great Hour of Sharing Videos

Videos show the mission that's made possible through the United Church of Christ. They can be fun, educational, and easy to share with church groups or during worship.

Advocate! Become an OGHS Ambassador

Lend your voice to promote the OGHS offering broadly (Training is provided). Learn what's at the heart of OGHS, then share the story with others in your congregation and neighboring churches. Sign-up today. Email oghs@ucc.org.

Connect with OGHS through Social Media

Follow OGHS on social media, then post OGHS videos and stories to your own page.

You can find OGHS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram:

facebook.com/onegreathourofsharingucc twitter.com/OGHS_at_UCC instagram.com/oghsucc

Travel with OGHS

OGHS hosts an annual educational mission trip. Come and see first-hand how OGHS makes a difference in the world. Find info at www.ucc.org/oghs_travel and join us on our next trip or let us build a trip for your church around your interests related to OGHS.

Make an Investment! Give a Significant Gift to the Offering or Endowment Fund

As your congregation participates in the OGHS offering, let them also know OGHS has an Endowment Fund. A gift to the endowment fund will ensure that the offering will be around as a legacy to help people in need for years to come. Visit our website at ucc.org/oghs_endowment or contact our office.

Apply for a Matching Gift Through your Employer

Double your gift. Many employers contribute to employee and board members' favorite charities. Matching gift programs often support mission work for which OGHS qualifies. Encourage everyone to check with their employer to see if they have a matching gift program. Visit ucc.org/matching-gifts.



In addition to Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support), the United Church of Christ has 4 Special Mission Offerings (SMOs). These offerings exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. Though many options exist for direct, individual support of these needs, the SMOs allow a common witness and make a collective positive impact. Our church has identified four areas where these critical human needs exist:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing**—in places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck;
- **Neighbors in Need**—within systems of injustice which oppress daily life and opportunity;
- **Strengthen the Church**—in the nurture of youth and congregations just beginning their lives of faith;
- **The Christmas Fund**—in the lives of church leaders without sufficient resources to live with dignity;

We believe these SMOs collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us to work together to bring about. Join the other 1,000 churches that have made the decision to become 5 for 5 congregations, supporting OCWM and all four of the Special Mission Offerings.

Invest in Futures

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:5–9 NRSV

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Theme Interpretation

Date trees can take a decade to bear fruit and 100 years to reach their full height. The hands that plant such a tree may do so knowing they may never rest in that tree's shade. Moved by love, they invest in that unseen future.

Brazilian theologian Rubem Alves wrote, "Let us plant dates even though those who plant them will never eat them."

"We are all co-workers together in God's service," writes Paul in 1 Corinthians 3. Some of us plant. Some of us water. But God gives the growth. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we become like date tree planters: serving the fruitful future for which God yearns. Who knows what growth God may bring when we join hands together across distance, across traditions, and across time for the love of what we may never see?

As an example, young women arriving at the New Life Center in Thailand have escaped difficult pasts, and often face uncertain futures. Whether they're survivors of abuse, trafficking, or just a lack of access to education, they may find it hard to envision a life beyond their present situation. But at New Life Center, they are met with kindness and compassion. They encounter people willing to invest the time and resources to help them imagine abundant futures full of opportunities for education, friendship, and healing.

Hands that once shook with fear now move swiftly across a keyboard, operate a sewing machine, or warmly clasp the hands of a friend. The support they receive at the New Life Center empowers these young women to



share their own gifts for the future thriving of the world.

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, we help make all of this new life and growth possible. Through our sharing, we are connected as co-workers. Our combined gifts empower young girls through education, help women learn trades; rebuild communities after disaster, and support communities through agriculture as they learn to sustain themselves. In these and so many other ways, we release the waters of God's growth when we invest in the lives of others.

In sharing our gifts, we join together as both donors and recipients of generous investment in the growth God will bring. As Paul writes, "the one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose." Moved by our common purpose, we share our gifts for the glory of God and for our neighbors' good.

When we make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, we invest in futures. While we cannot know the future, we do know that our future depends upon the future thriving of others.

Investing in the future God will bring is rewarding. For when we invest in each other and in each other's futures, we delight in knowing that we take part of God's holy work of growing and thriving. We celebrate the profound joy of living "for the love of what we may never see." When we make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, we invest in futures.

2020 Worship Materials

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:5–9 NRSV

Call to Worship

One: Gardeners plant, not fully knowing if their gardens will grow. Yet, they kneel in the dirt, dig with their hands, and bury one seed at a time.

Many: They plant and trust that a harvest will come.

One: God's word tells us that we are to be co-workers in service to others. Yet many times, we don't see how our meager support can help.

Many: We plant and trust that a harvest will come.

One: One plants. Another waters. But God gives the growth. We join together as co-workers in God's service to release the healing waters of God's love throughout our world.

Many: We rejoice, trusting in God's goodness, and trusting in God's word.

Invocation

God of Growth and Abundance,
Prepare the soil of our hearts to receive your life-bearing call that we would invest our gifts with confidence and joy in the fruitful future you bring forth. We pray in the name of the One who makes all things new. Amen.

Offertory

When violence reigns, disaster strikes, or resources are scarce, a future with hope can seem far away. In those times, our communities can act as sources of important support, embodying the love of the Holy Source of all hope and healing.

Paul writes we are all co-workers in God's service. We each have gifts to offer that may serve as channels of love and strength to all of us who find ourselves in need of support. We can trust that whatever we offer, God will use to bring a future with hope.

Through the ministries of this church and through the ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, we have the opportunity to be part of the hopeful future God is already bringing forth. Imagine what the future could be like when we join hands together across distance, cultures, and generations to invest in the growth God promises to bring.



Let us invest our gifts in the future that we can build as co-workers in the kingdom of God. Let us give generously today, believing in the future growth God brings when we work, plant, and build together.

Prayer of Dedication

Fruit-bringing God,
Bless the investments we commit to your work this day that our efforts would serve the future thriving of the world you so love. Amen.

Litany

Holy God, who brings sweet growth, teach us to live for the love of what we do not yet see.

Though we may sometimes feel buried deep, we can trust that your love, your hope, and your healing are always making ready to burst forth. Cultivate in us a belief in what the future could be when each one of us is empowered to fully live into the life your envision for us.

O God, who brings sweet growth, teach us to live for the love of what we do not yet see.

Your life-bringing design is visible in the beauty of creation, in the dawning of each day and in the turning of the seasons. Awaken in us a hope that when we plant, when we water, and when we invest in the future you are bringing, we are part of the joyful work of releasing the waters of new life.

O God, who brings sweet growth, teach us to live for the love of what we do not yet see. Amen.

Communion Invitation

One: Dear co-workers in God's service, we are called to the feast prepared by Christ.

Many: We come tired yet hopeful.
We come with laughter and tears.
We come broken and blessed.
We come to taste God's promise of a world made whole.

One: At this table, may we find rest. At this table, may we find hope. At this table, may we be moved to plant new seeds, to nourish fresh sprouts, and to join in bringing forth all the future fruit God is growing even now.

Many: To this table, we bring our dreams, our prayers, and our gifts with hopeful trust in God's holy healing power and love.

Words of Institution

On the night that he knew would be his last with them,
Jesus gathered his disciples for a feast.
They had walked many miles together.
They had known trials. They had seen wonders.
They would soon need to trust that God is in the business
of bringing hopeful futures from even the most painful endings.
So after dinner was over, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it,
and shared it with them, saying take, eat, do this in remembrance
of me.
Then he also took the cup, blessed it,
saying, "take, drink, do this in remembrance of me."
Every time we do this, beloved co-workers in Christ, we too remember
that God is in the business of bringing hopeful futures even when we
have no idea of what is to come.
We eat and drink today to be filled to the brim with that good news.
We eat and drink this day to become holy channels
of Christ's hope and healing for ourselves and for our world.

Prayer for Bread and Cup

God of the table,
You feed the wild birds of the air with fruit-filled
Branches and we flock to your table today
Longing to taste the hope and healing that you promise.
Nourish us with the bread
That sustains our souls and gives us hope.
Wash over us, reviving our roots in you.
Bless these elements we share
That the future you long for might
Burst into bloom in our hearts and in the world.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Rain-bringing God,
We give thanks for the gifts of bread and cup
Flowing with your promise of a future full of hope.
Carry us forth with courage to live for the love of all that
we do not yet see.
With trust in your eternal stream of new life we pray.
Amen.

Benediction

Go forth bearing the good news that God promises a future full of hope.
Go forth with expectant eyes, watching for the fruit God will bring.
Go in boldness, proclaiming God's promises to the world.

Hymn suggestions: New Earth, Heavens New; Seed Scattered and Sown;
Beyond Dying Sun, For the Healing of the Nations, For Everyone Born,
Welcome, Fresh as the Morning (God of the Bible), In the Bulb There
is a Flower, Now the Green Blade Rises, Pelas Dores Deste Mundo, O
Senor/ENGLISH, Si Tu Vieras Fe/If You Only had Faith



Offering Reminder—Prayer Station

Preparation

Find a place in your church that would be an appropriate place for people to pray.
Consider setting up a table where people can write down prayers or place stories and
images that describe the people and communities prayed for during worship.

Materials Needed

Table Pens Paper Basket/Box Candle

Stories can be found at ucc.org/oghs_stories

Facebook posts are added daily, find up-to-date stories at facebook.com/onegreathourofsharingucc

Setting

During your prayer time, lift up the person, family or community you selected from
our website. Share their need during an appropriate time (Prayers of the People, Joys
and Concerns, etc.) Include them in the prayer time when you normally pray for other
members of your congregation. Select a different story for each week the **One Great Hour
of Sharing** offering is being promoted.

Purpose

Through praying for others within our worship space, they become more real to us and
become a part of our community. We begin to care for them and become more aware of
the situations that are being addressed through the One Great Hour of Sharing Special
Mission offering.

Action Request

If you normally keep a log of the people you pray for, please add these special prayer
requests to the log, or display them throughout the week at the Prayer Station. Ask
members and friends to consider how God used our One Great Hour of Sharing offering
to help restore and strengthen communities in ways beyond our imagination.

Offer prayers for the people, their communities, and for the work we do with them
through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Sermon Starter

In the church, we often talk about the virtues of “servant leadership.” At its best, that term encourages church leaders to model their ministry after Jesus, who stooped to wash the feet of his disciples, who served them at the table, and who prayed for them faithfully even in his final hours.

God invites each of us to lead by serving, to share freely of our gifts so that God may work through us. Indeed, the word translated as “servant” in 1 Cor. 3:5 in the NIV is *diakonos*, the root of the term “deacon.”

Paul uses the term to describe someone whose work may be of benefit to others. Specifically in this context, he describes someone whose efforts God may use as a channel for good and growth. In choosing to humbly give their gifts, “servant-leaders” become channels of God’s healing love, so that all may enjoy the powerful experience of shared value, worth, and investment.

When we work and share our gifts together, none of us has to be Paul or Apollos, or any famous spiritual leader, in order to be faithful to the responsibilities we have been given. None of us is expected to solve all the problems of the world alone, or even as individual churches. Rather, we are called to use the time, talent, and resources we have been given for the opportunities before us. In so doing, we have the joyful opportunity to participate in the growth God is already providing in the world.

“... we have the joyful opportunity to participate in the growth God is already providing in the world.”

One Great Hour of Sharing works through a global network of partners, so that none of us has to do this work alone. Strong relationships are at the heart of this shared ministry, recognizing that true servant leadership empowers each person and community to use the gifts they’ve been given.

The Greek word translated as “co-workers” in 1 Cor. 3:9 in the NIV is *synergoi*. It shares a root with the English word synergy, meaning the interaction of two contributions—which, when combined, produce a greater effect than the simple sum of those contributions. When we give



to One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts join with others and the effects multiply exponentially as God gives growth.

The growth of any garden depends on the soil in which it grows. Different plants give and take different nutrients from the soil. Good gardeners are careful to balance plant varieties so that everything growing in the garden will have what it needs to thrive and bear fruit. If the balance of the soil nutrients is thrown off, all the plants in the garden may suffer. Keeping that balance does not mean treating all plants the same. Rather, it means giving each plant what it needs. As co-workers in God's garden, when we share in the work of One Great Hour of Sharing, we make an investment in the future and receive abundant blessings in return.

Unlike with the stock market or a retirement account, we do not invest in God's growth to receive a benefit for ourselves. Rather, we give, receive, plant, and water in the service of the future for which God yearns.



A little-known band called Yurtfolk² set to music the words of the Brazilian theologian Rubem Alves' quote: "We must live for the love of what we may never see." The song tells the story of an old man who plants a date tree in whose shade he will never sit, and whose fruit he will never eat. Why would he do that? Simply—for the love of what he may never see.



In this letter from Paul, the Jesus-followers in Corinth are encouraged to give and plant without undue attachment or ownership to the end result. It matters little who takes credit for the good fruits borne by the faith community in Corinth—Paul or Apollos. What matters is that they bear the fruit God has called them to bear.

Church leaders may want to reflect on how our churches learn to live for the love of what we may never see. How might we invest in futures, trusting that even if we may never see it, God indeed will give abundant growth?

Yurtfolk: <http://yurtfolk.com>

“We must live for the love of what we may never see.”

'It's better to help them'

"Maybe I'll go back to my country and die there."
That's how Ajuwa felt after spending seven years in a refugee camp in Malawi.

Ajuwa and his wife, Imani, had fled their homes in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo to a refugee camp. After the Rwandan Genocide, conflict among rebel groups and various governments arose in eastern Congo. War broke out, and Ajuwa and Imani were no longer safe.

"Almost every day, people were killed. Usually, they would come at night. They come with guns to take things, kill people, and take people away."

After seven years in a refugee camp, Ajuwa, Imani and their four children who were born in the camp were accepted into the resettlement program which allowed them to move to the U.S. Now, the family is adapting to their new life in Greensboro. The children are doing well in school, Ajuwa has a good job and obtained his driver's license, and they've been able to buy a car to get the kids to school and for Ajuwa to get to work.

"Almost every day, people were killed. Usually, they would come at night. They come with guns to take things, kill people, and take people away."

It took hard work, motivation, persistence, and—most importantly—learning English (Ajuwa already speaks 5 languages, and now also wants to learn Spanish) for them to get to this point.

Ajuwa and Imani ask that all of us remember that there are refugees still suffering in camps, urging us to "be attentive to refugees...When you meet a refugee, it is better to help them."

Ajuwa and family along with other refugees are supported through OGHS' partnership with Church World Service. Together we are making a difference in the lives of refugees.



Not Just Peanuts

In a community that's far from any town, where only 22 families live, 3 sisters planned to change their community with peanuts.

Sarthia, Piremeke, and Vishaathana explained that it had only rained in their community in India a few times over the last year. A lack of water had affected everyone.

The thought to improve their community began when Piremeke and her husband began dreaming of a better life for their two children. They heard about programs that provided small loans to people like them. The first loan they received, helped them open a little store. The store—the only of its kind for miles—carried groceries and items that you would find in any corner store. They had bread, milk, oil, and even candy and sweets.



However, the store didn't provide Piremeke and her family the kind of life that would give their children better opportunities, and there certainly wasn't enough of a profit to invest in their community. So Piremeke and her sisters came up with a different plan. They got loans to grow peanuts.

As peanut farmers, they were very wise. They held on to their peanuts for just the right time to take them to market. They would then sell and receive the best price for their harvest. They learned that if they would plant peanuts for 2 or 3 harvests and then allow the land to rest, that they would reap a bigger harvest while also protecting their farmland investment and peanut business.

The sisters and their families used peanut farming to raise enough money to ultimately build wells on their property. Where they lived, their gardens, animals and livelihoods were all affected by a water shortage.

By building three wells in their small community, they would change the flow of the water, bringing water into the community where all could benefit.

To you and me, these may look like ordinary peanuts. But to the people in Piremeke's village, the peanuts were an investment in their futures.



“By building three wells in their small community, they would change the flow of the water, bringing water into the community where all could benefit.”

Investing in Florida

Recovery is challenging enough for people with means, but hundreds—including people with fixed incomes, the ill, elderly, and disabled—simply lack the resources to rebuild on their own.

With generous contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the United Church of Christ with the help of volunteer work teams from around the country, who have given thousands of hours, have restored close to 200 homes.

A 70-year-old disabled Navy veteran said, “Having a roof that was leaky and falling in was very difficult for me. I did not know what I would do.”

His Volusia County, Florida, home lost most of the roof’s shingles to Hurricane Irma’s winds (2017). The storm opened the way to major leaks, which destroyed much of the ceiling in the main living area and bedroom.

UCC Disaster Ministries partnered with Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disaster (VIND) to help the most vulnerable disaster survivors. VIND helped the veteran obtain a loan to pay for a new roof, and deployed a volunteer work team from Altoona (Pennsylvania) United Church of Christ to complete the interior repairs in his home.

“The volunteers ... did it with such love and compassion, taking the job under their wings and making it perfect,” the veteran said. “My health was deteriorating due to breathing in particles and debris from the water damage in my home, but it is improving now. I have a new outlook and I am no longer depressed.” Thanking VIND and the volunteers, he said, “You have changed my life.”

Needs are being met in Florida with support from OGHS. Volunteer work teams, a construction supervisor, and over two dozen UCC congregations have volunteered to help repair homes.

Not too far away from Volusia County, the Florida Panhandle is still trying to recover from a very powerful hurricane, Hurricane Michael (2016). UCC Disaster Ministries is working with Long Term Recovery



Groups (LTRG) in seven counties. In fall 2019, Betzi Yungclas, an experienced UCC Partners in Service volunteer, and Benji Benzschawel, a full-time construction manager, were deployed to the area. They will assist the LTRGs with building coordination and volunteer management for a year.

“While progress has been made in Florida over the last year in recovery, there are still significant unmet needs,” said Ken Skalitzy, UCC Disaster Recovery Specialist for the Eastern Region. “Please support disaster recovery with your work teams, donations and prayers,” Skalitzy said. “Our ability to support long-term recovery in Florida is but one example of our living the gospel of Christ.” It is also a chance to invest in the futures of communities.

“Our ability to support long-term recovery in Florida is but one example of our living the gospel of Christ. It is also a chance to invest in the futures of communities.”



BASED ON PER CAPITA GIVING

California, Nevada Northern

First Congregational UCC

Berkeley, CA

Danville Congregational Church

Danville, CA

Mira Vista UCC

El Cerrito, CA

Community Church UCC

Kenwood, CA

Foothills Congregational UCC

Los Altos, CA

Skyland Community UCC

Los Gatos, CA

United Church of Christ

Petaluma, CA

Ladera Community Church

Portola Valley, CA

California, Nevada Southern

Irvine United Congregational Church

Irvine, CA

First Congregational UCC

Long Beach, CA

Redlands UCC

Redlands, CA

Mission Hills UCC

San Diego, CA

University City United Church UCC

San Diego, CA

Central Atlantic

New Ark Church UCC

Newark, DE

Greenbelt Community Church, UCC

Greenbelt, MD

First Congregational Church of River Edge UCC

River Edge, NJ

Little River UCC

Annandale, VA

Rock Spring Congregational UCC

Arlington, VA

Sojourners UCC

Charlottesville, VA

Emmaus UCC

Vienna, VA

Central Pacific

First Congregational UCC

Ashland, OR

Cedar Hills UCC

Portland, OR

UCC Congregational of the Dalles

The Dalles, OR

Connecticut

Groton Congregational Church UCC

Groton, CT

Union Memorial UCC

Stamford, CT

First Church in Windsor, UCC

Windsor, CT

Florida

Church on the Hill

Boca Raton, FL

Cocoa Beach Community Church UCC

Cocoa Beach, FL

Fort Myers Congregational UCC

Fort Myers, FL

Congregational UCC

Punta Gorda, FL

Hawaii

Koloa Union United Church of Christ

Koloa, HI

Illinois

Congregational UCC

Arlington Heights, IL

Top Giving

BASED ON TOTAL DOLLARS

First Church of Christ Congregational

Glastonbury, CT
Connecticut

Next 10 Top Total Dollar Giving to OGHS

First Congregational UCC

Eau Claire, WI
Wisconsin

First Congregational UCC

Crystal Lake, IL
Illinois

Plymouth Congregational UCC

Des Moines, IA
Iowa

Second Congregational Church, UCC

Greenwich, CT
Connecticut

First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

Old Lyme, CT
Connecticut

Plymouth UCC

Grand Rapids, MI
Michigan

First Congregational UCC

Baraboo, WI
Wisconsin

Rock Spring Congregational UCC

Arlington, VA
Central Atlantic

Claremont United Church of Christ

Claremont, CA
California, Nevada Southern

First United Church of Arvada UCC

Arvada, CO
Rocky Mountain

St Peter Community Church UCC
Northfield, IL

Indiana-Kentucky

Saint Peter's UCC
Carmel, IN

First Congregational UCC
Indianapolis, IN

Saint John's UCC
Vincennes, IN

Iowa

United Church of Christ Congregational
Grinnell, IA

Congregational UCC
Iowa City, IA

Kansas-Oklahoma

First Congregational UCC
Manhattan, KS

Colonial UCC
Prairie Village, KS

Maine

Second Congregational UCC
Newcastle, ME

Massachusetts

Park Avenue Congregational UCC
Arlington, MA

The Second Church in Newton UCC
Newton, MA

First Congregational UCC
Norwood, MA

Pilgrim UCC
Sherborn, MA

Michigan

First Congregational UCC
Alpena, MI

Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Ann Arbor, MI

Congregational UCC
Clare, MI

Plymouth UCC
Grand Rapids, MI

Minnesota

First Congregational UCC
Mankato, MN

Lynnhurst Congregational
Minneapolis, MN

First Congregational
Moorhead, MN

First United Church of Christ
Northfield, MN

Union Congregational UCC
Saint Louis Park, MN

Macalester Plymouth United Church UCC
Saint Paul, MN

Missouri Mid-South

Ivy Chapel UCC
Chesterfield, MO

New Hampshire

Church of Christ At Dartmouth UCC
Hanover, NH

South Congregational UCC
Newport, NH

New York

Mountain United Church of Christ
Fairport, NY

Presbyterian/New England Congregational
Saratoga Springs, NY

Ohio

Saint John UCC
Bellevue, KY

David's UCC
Kettering, OH

The First Church in Oberlin UCC
Oberlin, OH

United Church of Christ
Richfield, OH

Pacific Northwest

Eagle Harbor Congregational
Bainbridge Island, WA

Shalom UCC, Richland
Richland, WA

Spirit of Peace UCC
Sammamish, WA

Magnolia UCC
Seattle, WA

United Church in University Place
University Place, WA

Northshore UCC
Woodinville, WA

Penn Central

Saint John's UCC
Boalsburg, PA

Trinity UCC
East Petersburg, PA

Emmanuel UCC
Hanover, PA

United Church of Christ
Hummelstown, PA

Hamilton Park UCC
Lancaster, PA

Saint Paul's UCC
New Oxford, PA

Pennsylvania Southeast

Trinity Christian UCC
Skippack, PA

Heidelberg UCC
Schwenksville, PA

United Church of Christ at Valley Forge
Wayne, PA

Rocky Mountain

First United Church of Arvada UCC
Arvada, CO

Park Hill Congregational UCC
Denver, CO

Lakewood United Church of Christ
Lakewood, CO

Southeast

The United Church
Huntsville, AL

Central Congregational UCC
Atlanta, GA

First United Church UCC
Belvidere, TN

Southeast

Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC
Pleasant Hill, TN

Southern

Good Shepherd UCC
Cary, NC

Congregational Church UCC
Tryon, NC

Southwest

The Good Shepherd UCC
Sahuarita, AZ

Scottsdale Congregational UCC
Scottsdale, AZ

Church of the Palms UCC
Sun City, AZ

Church of the Painted Hills UCC
Tucson, AZ

United Church of Santa Fe UCC
Santa Fe, NM

Vermont

Second Congregational UCC
Bennington, VT

Community Church UCC
Guilford, VT

Bethany UCC
Randolph, VT

Wisconsin

First Congregational UCC
Baraboo, WI

First Congregational UCC
Eau Claire, WI

First Congregational UCC
Oconomowoc, WI

Congregational UCC
Whitewater, WI

OGHS Sharing Calendar—*Investing in Futures*

God has blessed us in so many ways. This calendar is designed to help us acknowledge our blessings but to also think about and pray for others. Each day highlights various situations and suggests a donation of coins or bills. Your household can decide what unit works best for you. It is easiest if you select one unit and use it throughout the days on the calendar. The sharing calendar works well with the OGHS coin box. To order additional coin boxes, call: 1-800-325-7061. Your gift will be an investment into the lives of those who need it most!

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
INVEST IN CHILDREN	<p>Children remain the poorest age group in America. Progress has been made, but too many children are still hungry</p> <p>Give two units for each child in your family.</p>	<p>Good nutrition is a critical part of ensuring that all human beings can use their bodies and minds to live an active life and reach their full potential</p> <p>Give one unit for each meal you've eaten today.</p>	<p>Substantial global progress has been made in reducing child deaths since 1990. The total number of under-5 deaths worldwide has dropped by 58%</p> <p>Give two units in thanksgiving for the progress being made.</p>	<p>Can you really imagine Jesus saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"</p> <p>Jesus cares for children and so should we. Please give a generous donation today!</p>	<p>Children represent the future, and ensuring their healthy growth and development ought to be a prime concern of all societies</p> <p>Give three units in honor of the children in your congregation.</p>	<p>Malnourished children have a higher risk of death from common childhood illness such as diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria</p> <p>Give one unit for each child under 5 in your extended family.</p>	<p>In the first 1,000 days, babies' brains form new connections at an astounding rate. With every nutritious meal, hug and kiss, you help build a baby's brain</p> <p>Share one unit for each baby you kissed this week or three units if you were unable to kiss a child.</p>
INVEST IN CREATION	<p>Over one billion people do not have access to safe water and 2.4 billion have no access to decent sanitation</p> <p>Give three units today.</p>	<p>Cars are harmful to the environment. Taking public transportation, walking, or riding a bike are good options that help the environment</p> <p>Give one unit for each time you rode in a car today.</p>	<p>Plastic pollution is one of the biggest threats to worldwide ocean health. Skyrocketing plastic production and limited recycling are factors</p> <p>Please give one unit, and commit to recycling and/or limiting use of plastic bottles.</p>	<p>Through wisdom, God founded the earth; by understanding God established the heavens</p> <p>Give one unit for every bottle you threw away this week that still had water trapped inside of it.</p>	<p>Approximately 3 billion people lack access to clean-cooking solutions and are exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution</p> <p>Give two units for every home-cooked meal you enjoyed today.</p>	<p>The proportion of people using drinking water from improved sources has been steadily improving</p> <p>Give one unit for each faucet in your home.</p>	<p>Many poor villages still lack reliable electricity. The U.S. uses 22% of all electricity consumed in the world</p> <p>Give one unit for each electrical appliance in your home.</p>
INVEST IN NEIGHBORS	<p>Immigration is an international hunger and poverty issue. Many undocumented immigrants are fleeing hunger, extreme poverty, and violence</p> <p>Give two units to support lawful pathways to citizenship in the US.</p>	<p>About 40% of the world's population, mostly people in the poorest countries, risk contracting Malaria, which causes 300 million illness and 1 million deaths annually</p> <p>Give one unit for every doctor you have.</p>	<p>\$10 can provide a thermal blanket for a refugee, or 1 mat to prevent them from sleeping on the cold ground</p> <p>Give two units for every blanket on your bed.</p>	<p>Feel God's presence and joy through helping others for God loves a cheerful giver</p> <p>Give the number of units you think would be pleasing to God.</p>	<p>The proportion of people living in extreme poverty is half of what it was in 1990. Yet 1.4 billion people still live on less than \$1.25 per day</p> <p>Share a unit for each meal you have eaten in a restaurant in the past week.</p>	<p>Worldwide, over 100 million elementary school-aged children do not attend school</p> <p>Give one unit for each year of formal education you have received.</p>	<p>The U.S. has significantly reduced the number of refugees it is admitting into our country</p> <p>Give one unit for each person you know who came from another country. If you know more than 5 people from another country give 3 units.</p>
INVEST IN FUTURES	<p>"We cannot rest until every child who lives in: poverty, a refugee camp, an isolated village, a fragile setting, or who has a disability has a chance to go to school"</p> <p>Alice Albright</p> <p>Give two units today in thanks for your education.</p>	<p>Floods are the most widespread natural disaster aside from wildfires. 90% of all U.S. natural disasters declared involved flooding</p> <p>Give two units if you live in a comfortable home that has never flooded.</p>	<p>Providing an education to girls and young women is one of the strongest ways to end cyclical poverty</p> <p>Give one unit in thanksgiving as you name each girl and woman important in your life.</p>	<p>One plants, one waters, but only God gives the growth.</p> <p>Share two units in thanksgiving for the ways God has blessed you so that you can bless others.</p>	<p>In 2018, wildfires burned 8.6 million acres in the United States. Many of the homes that were impacted were completely destroyed.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for every smoke detector in your home.</p>	<p>For every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of \$4 is returned in increased productivity</p> <p>Give one unit for each time you washed your hands today.</p>	<p>Support disaster survivors. Become a UCC Disaster Recovery Volunteer. Help communities rebuild, visit ucc.org/disaster for info</p> <p>Share one unit if you have ever volunteered at a disaster site or two units if you have not.</p>

Sources: Church World Service, Bread for the World, Children's Defense Fund, UNICEF (United Nation's Children's Fund), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Oceanic Society, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, American Red Cross, the New York Times and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Finding OGHS Resources

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING RESOURCES IN YOUR SHIPMENT

One of each unless indicated otherwise

- Poster (1)
- Bulletin Inserts (bulk)
- Cube Coin Offering Box
- Offering Envelopes (bulk)
- Planning and Resource Guide

OGHS MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT UCC RESOURCES

- Bulletin Inserts (no charge)
- Offering Envelopes (no charge)
- Cube Coin Offering Boxes (additional—\$0.10/each)

OGHS ON THE WEB UCC.ORG/OGHS_RESOURCES

Complete OGHS Resources including:

- Planning and Resource Guide
- Worship Resources and Children's Sermons
- Children and Youth Activities
- Downloadable Art, Graphics, Songs and Videos
- Sharing Calendar
- Skits and Stories

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Or Contact us Phone 216-736-3215; Email oghs@ucc.org

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